

House Resolution 423 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Cole of the 125th

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Billy Lancaster lived his life with a passion for the land and for forestry; and

4 WHEREAS, he also had an equal passion for working with the youth of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a strong believer in the stewardship ethic expected of landowners and
6 foresters; and

7 WHEREAS, he was a strong supporter of the Georgia Forestry Association and its important
8 role in protecting the right of landowners and foresters to practice good forestry
9 management; and

10 WHEREAS, the Society of American Foresters' Youth Camp founded in 1989 by Billy
11 Lancaster was renamed the Billy Lancaster Forestry Youth Camp in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Billy Lancaster's passion for life was contagious, and those who knew him and
13 had the privilege to be around him were blessed; and

14 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that his memory be perpetuated for generations to come.

15 **PART II**

16 WHEREAS, Nathan and James Simmons were Georgians and brothers who proudly and
17 courageously served their country when called upon; and

18 WHEREAS, Nathan B. Simmons was born on June 10, 1929, in Appling County, Georgia;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, he enlisted in the United States Army, and rose to the rank of Sergeant First
2 Class; and

3 WHEREAS, he was awarded numerous honors and medals, including the Army
4 Commendation medal, Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in connection with military
5 operations against a hostile force, Vietnam Service medal, National Defense Service medal,
6 and the Soldier's Medal for pulling a panic-stricken soldier from a raging stream; and

7 WHEREAS, he was killed in action in Vietnam on May 12, 1969; and

8 WHEREAS, James Q. Simmons was born on July 22, 1930, in Nicholls, Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, he enlisted in the United States Army and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant
10 while serving his country in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam; and

11 WHEREAS, he was awarded numerous honors and medals, including the Bronze Star,
12 Purple Heart, Army of Occupation Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal,
13 Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and the Parachutist Badge – Master; and

14 WHEREAS, these courageous soldiers, in the spirit of the American patriot, confronted the
15 dangers, privations, and discomforts of wartime service with steadfast resolve, making us as
16 a nation truly proud; and

17 WHEREAS, all Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of our armed
18 forces who risk their lives in the defense of freedom and to secure the blessings of liberty for
19 this nation and other peoples of the world.

20 **PART III**

21 WHEREAS, the late Charles Cowart was born in Arlington, Georgia, in 1909, and lived there
22 all of his life; and

23 WHEREAS, he served the public as county commissioner in Calhoun County for 37 years,
24 including 32 years as chairman. During those years, he made numerous trips to Atlanta to
25 work first-hand with legislators and state department heads to find ways to improve Calhoun
26 County; and

1 WHEREAS, he was always active in his church, Arlington United Methodist, holding
2 various positions, most notably as chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years; and he
3 belonged to several civic organizations; and

4 WHEREAS, he and Mary Martin were married in 1934; and

5 WHEREAS, the late Mary Martin Cowart was born in Blakely, Georgia, in 1908; her family
6 moved to Arlington shortly thereafter, and she lived the rest of her life in Arlington; and

7 WHEREAS, she was very much involved in the work that brought the hospital to Arlington
8 in the mid-1950s, and she then became a charter member of the Hospital Board, where she
9 served as chairwoman for many years; during this same period of time, she worked tirelessly
10 with many others to help Arlington become a Better Hometown community; and

11 WHEREAS, she always had a deep concern for the underprivileged, and she showed this
12 concern during the many years that she worked for DFACS in Calhoun and Early counties
13 and then later as manager of the Arlington Housing Authority; and

14 WHEREAS, she was a lifelong member of the Arlington United Methodist Church where
15 she taught adult Sunday School classes for many years, and served in several other positions
16 on the administrative board of the church.

17 **PART IV**

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA that the portion of SR 42 from the City of Forsyth to the entrance to Indian
20 Springs State Park, in Butts and Monroe counties, be dedicated as the Billy Lancaster
21 Memorial Highway.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on SR 221 between the city limits of Douglas
23 and SR 206 be dedicated as the SFC Nathan B. Simmons and SSGT James Q. Simmons
24 Memorial Bridge.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of SR 45 Alternate in Calhoun County from
26 the intersection of SR 45, SR 62, SR 216, and Cedar Street to the junction of SR 45 Alternate
27 with SR 45 be designated as the Charles and Mary Cowart Bypass.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
2 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this
3 resolution.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
5 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
6 Transportation, to the family of Billy Lancaster, to the families of Nathan B. Simmons and
7 James Q. Simmons, and to the family of Charles and Mary Cowart.